WRITTEN ANSWERES TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Replacing MSP

1851. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Agriculture Experts have suggested to replace the system of Minimum Support Price for specified crops by a system of remunerative prices and a participatory price insurance scheme, and to expand the National Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide employment beyond 100 days a year;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to their request; and

(c) if not, whether alternative proposals are also being considered or the present schemes being further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has not recieved any suggestion for expansion of National Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide employment beyond 100 days a year. Suggestions for replacement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) by a system of remunerative prices and a participatory price insurance scheme have also not been recieved. However, the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme provides protection to farmers against yield risk while MSP protects them from distress sale when market prices fall below MSP.

Fertilizer and fertility

†1852. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertility of the land of our country has declined due to use of chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details of action plan formulated by Government to deal with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The average consumption of fertilizers is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.